

Meeting	SPA Policing Performance Committee
Date	26 August 2020
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	Naloxone Delivery Steering Group Update
Presented By	ACC Gary Ritchie, Partnerships and Prevention
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	Yes Appendix A – DSG Membership

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the SPA Policing Performance Committee with an update in respect of the Naloxone Delivery Steering Group and the development of proposals for a Test of Change for the carriage/administration of Naloxone, by Police Scotland officers.

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Police Scotland needs to consider innovative solutions in addressing the continued and significant level of drug deaths in Scotland and to ensure delivery of the best possible service for individuals and wider communities.
- 1.2 Naloxone, administered as a nasal spray, is a medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid-related overdose. The carriage and use of Naloxone by Police Scotland officers has been discussed extensively.
- 1.3 It was proposed at the Police Scotland Senior Leadership Board in January 2020 to consider a pilot exercise, to ascertain the benefits to communities of police officers carrying Naloxone routinely. The Chief Constable subsequently approved the development of proposals for a Test of Change via the creation of a Delivery Steering Group (DSG), with representation from relevant partners.
- 1.4 Any decision to continue to a Test of Change, thereafter, remains for the Chief Constable and Senior Leadership Board.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 The Naloxone DSG was established and the inaugural meeting held on 12 March 2020, chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Ritchie. The meeting was well attended, with representation from a wide range of stakeholders (details of the DSG membership has been provided in Appendix A).
- 2.2 The DSG considered and agreed its Aim and Terms of Reference. It was acknowledged that there are a range of opinions held on this matter and that any proposals developed would need to address concerns raised. The following workstreams were actioned during the meeting:
 - **Implementation and Evaluation:** This will include development of the principles for the Test of Change; how best to identify the areas that will be involved; practical arrangements for the storage and carriage of Naloxone; development of an academically rigorous method for evaluation including key partnership links.
 - **Training:** To consider training requirements for officers who will be given the opportunity to carry Naloxone and for certain staff within related operational disciplines e.g. C3; to also consider a suite of training options for other relevant officers/staff, including those

likely to be involved with the carriage e.g. first-line managers; and to support a wider, general awareness amongst those unlikely to have any direct involvement in the Test of Change.

- **Legal and Procedural Considerations:** To review and consider all legal and procedural implications that might arise from the Test of Change.
- **Health and Safety:** To risk assess the practices and procedures that will be required for the Test of Change and to clearly define organisational responsibilities in terms of assuring the health and safety of officers.
- **Service Level Agreement:** To link with Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to ensure that the current service delivery model will continue, whereby SAS have primacy in responding to and dealing with reported drug overdoses, even in instances where a police officer has administered Naloxone.
- **Communication:** To consider how best to keep Police Scotland, partner organisations and the public appropriately informed of the work to develop proposals for the Test of Change and any subsequent messaging, once a decision is taken on the proposals.

It was recognised that these workstreams will not operate in isolation and there will be some crossover of content.

2.3 The aspirational timescale agreed at the inaugural DSG meeting was to develop the proposals within 3 months, with a view to presenting them for Force Executive consideration during the summer of 2020. The subsequent impact of COVID-19 on resource levels, emerging risks and competing priorities has resulted in a temporary delay to these timescales.

2.4 It was also acknowledged that the DSG workstream activity relies on contribution from a number of external partner agencies, who undoubtedly faced similar challenges from the impact of COVID-19, to that of Police Scotland. Partner capacity therefore had to be established, in order for the development of proposals to progress.

NEXT STEPS

2.5 The availability/administration of Naloxone has continued to be a significant factor in ongoing harm reduction efforts, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and Police Scotland remain fully committed to

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developing the Test of Change proposals, at the earliest opportunity.

- 2.6 The DSG reconvened with a meeting on 20 July 2020, chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Ritchie. All members are keen to progress with the development of proposals and the aforementioned workstreams were reviewed and refreshed in light of COVID-19 learning/implications.
- 2.7 A full evaluation will be required following any Test of Change, to capture and assess overall impact/effectiveness of any administration and any wider ancillary benefits of carriage e.g. impact on public confidence; in addressing stigma; information sharing etc. The Public Health Surveillance (PHS) Sub Group of the Drug Deaths Taskforce previously expressed an interest in assisting with the evaluation process of any exercise undertaken by Police Scotland and this is being explored through the DSG, with suitable PHS representation within the membership.
- 2.8 It is also considered vital to have academic support in order to attain an established evidence base. The Scottish Institute of Policing Research (SIPR) have expressed a willingness to support this through the DSG workstreams and have suitable representation within the membership.
- 2.9 To maintain a positive momentum, the next meeting of the DSG has been scheduled for 27 August 2020, with monthly meetings scheduled thereafter for the remainder of the year. Given that many of the workstreams are still at an early stage, a more detailed and definitive timescale will be provided in due course as these progress.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Should the Test of Change proposals be approved, there will be financial implications in respect of purchasing the appropriate number of Naloxone kits.
- 3.2 The exact number of officers participating in the Test of Change will have to be confirmed, however early enquiries indicate that the current unit cost for intranasal Naloxone is £27.50 per pack (each pack contains 2 devices).
- 3.3 The Drugs Death Taskforce have previously intimated that there may be funding support available in respect of financial implications associated with any Test of Change and this will be explored further, as appropriate.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The DSG has suitable representation from the Scottish Police Federation and UNISON. Should the Test of Change be approved, officer participation will be voluntary.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Police Scotland Legal Services are represented within the DSG membership and there is a dedicated workstream, which will consider all legal implications.

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There continues to be significant interest and high expectation from relevant partners, including the Scottish Government led Drug Deaths Taskforce, around the progress of the proposals and any subsequent initiation of a Test of Change.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are social implications associated with this paper.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

8.1 The proposed Test of Change offers a significant opportunity in respect of harm prevention. It is also hoped that the Test of Change will have a positive impact towards addressing existing stigma and increasing overall public trust and confidence amongst people who use drugs, their families and wider communities.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment will be completed prior to any Test of Change.

10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this paper.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.

APPENDIX A – Naloxone Delivery Steering Group Membership

Scottish Drugs Forum

Scottish Recovery Consortium

Scottish Institute of Policing Research

Scottish Ambulance Service

Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board, NHS (Lead Pharmacist)

Scottish Government

Public Health Scotland

Scottish Police Federation

Unison

Police Scotland representation:

- Scottish Police Authority Strategic Liaison
- Corporate Communications
- Audit & Risk
- Leadership, Training and Development
- Analysis and Performance Unit
- Criminal Justice Services
- C3
- Information management
- Local Policing
- Professional Standards
- Finance
- People and Development
- Legal Services
- Safer Communities (Harm Prevention)